

COLGATE & COMPANY JERSEY CITY PLANT: C-2
(Colgate-Palmolive Company Jersey City Plant: C-2)
49-53 Grand Street
Jersey City
Hudson County
New Jersey

HAER No. NJ-71-Q

HAER
NJ
9-JERC1
18Q-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
Northeast Field Area
Chesapeake/Allegheny System Support Office
National Park Service
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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HAER NO. NJ-71-Q

- Location:** 49-53 Grand Street, Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey
- Significance:** C-2 became the main site of synthetic cleanser production in Jersey City, c1948-86. Although not an individually significant structure, C-2 was significant as a component of the Colgate plant.
- Description:** C-2 was a 6-story plus basement, steel-framed, 76-by-104-foot building with brick bearing walls and a front facing gable roof. Twenty-four 30-inch composite steel columns, encased in terracotta and concrete, rested on 4-foot-high stepped brick pedestals in the basement, and divided the structure into five bays east-west and seven bays north-south. The early-20th-century foundations included timbers linking the column pedestals, but concrete-encased 15- and 20-inch I-beams supported all floors and the roof (SECOND FLOOR INTERIOR, VIEW SOUTHEAST; SIXTH FLOOR INTERIOR, VIEW SOUTH; HAER No. NJ-71-P, Figure 2).

The 5-bay Grand Street exterior was fronted by a railroad siding. From east to west, the ground floor included a pedestrian door, a truck bay, an infilled window with a louver, a 6/6 segmentally arched window, a railroad car loading bay with a riveted iron canopy, and an infilled former pedestrian door. The second floor had segmentally arched masonry openings with some 6/6 windows, with two windows per bay; the third bay from the east had a paired pedestrian door. The third through sixth floors had a tripartite window grouping in each bay consisting of three 2/2 wood double hung or pivoting windows, all with exposed steel lintels and bluestone sills. Many of the windows on the fourth and fifth floors were hidden behind the conveyor bridge which ran across the north side of C-Block. Where part of the window was exposed, small pivoting two pane sash replaced the original windows. Below the dentillated and corbelled cornice was a frieze with the inset inscription in white glazed brick, "COLGATE & C^o" (NORTH ELEVATION).

The bituminous-clad roof was finished with a brick parapet with bluestone coping, and contained a steel superstructure housing air filtration systems. There were stairways and elevators located in the northeast and southwest corners of the building, with freight handled in the northeast elevator and in another elevator on the east side of C-1 (HAER No. NJ-71-P). Interior finishes included painted brick walls and concrete or wood floors. Mechanical handling equipment for the production of cleansers, principally AJAX, included dust collectors on the

* Capitalized references are to photographs included with this documentation.

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sixth floor, formula ingredient hoppers on the fifth floor, mixers and mills on the third and fourth floors, and conveyorized filling and packaging lines on the first and second floors. The basement contained air compressors, utilizing river water pumped from E-3 (HAER No. NJ-71-JJ), for a central C-2 vacuum plant; wall outlets linked to this system allowed for rapid clean-up of non-recyclable dust residues from cleanser production (SECOND FLOOR INTERIOR, VIEW SOUTHEAST; DRY MIXERS ON FOURTH FLOOR, VIEW SOUTHEAST; SIXTH FLOOR INTERIOR, VIEW SOUTH).

History: Colgate & Company purchased three brick structures--probably tenements--on the C-2 site c1905 and converted them to box manufacturing at about the time that a 19th-century box factory on B Block was demolished. The early, undocumented use of C-2 may have been as new box factory. C-2 was constructed in two stages: the first two stories were built c1906-07 (known then as U Building) and the remaining stories were added in 1911. The structure was further modified in 1951 for railcar loading along Grand Street, along with building C-1 (HAER No. NJ-71-P). C-2 was used for synthetic cleaners manufacturing, finishing and storage from c1948-86. The structure was demolished in early 1989.

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Sources:

Plans

All drawings listed below are currently (1991) held by the Colgate-Palmolive Company in the L-1 building at the Jersey City plant (HAER NO. NJ-71-SS). For future access, researchers should contact the company's Office of Corporate Communications, 300 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

Colgate & Company/Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Company

1910	Proposed Extension of "U" Building [25 sheets, with drawing numbers]:			
1	Foundation Plan	2-1452	16	Typical Floor Plan, Sixth Floor 2-1465
2	Details of Additional Columns and Beams in Basement	2-1450	17	Typical Floor Plan Fifth Floor 2-1466
3	Plan of New Columns and Beams in Basement	2-1451	18	Typical Floor Plan 3rd (sic) Floor 2-1467
4	Front Elevation	2-1453	19	Detail of Floor and Roof Slabs 2-1468
5	East Elevation	2-1454	20	Detail of Main Stair - Stair Enclosure & Elevator Shaft 2-1469
6	West Elevation	2-1455	21	Detail of Roof Stair & Stair Enclosure 2-1470
7	South Elevation	2-1456	24	Plan of Roof & Flashing 2-1473
8	Transverse Section Looking South	2-1457	26	Steel Framing for Head House & Skylight Supports 2-1475
9	[half longitudinal sections through west and center bays]	2-1458	27	First Floor Plan 2-1476
10	Plan of Roof Steel	2-1459	28	Second Floor Plan 2-1477
11	6th Floor Plan	2-1460		
12	5th Floor Plan	2-1461		
13	4th Floor Plan	2-1462		
14	3rd Floor Plan	2-1463		
15	Typical Floor Plan, 4th Floor	2-1464		

1911 New Grade for Grand Street in Front of "U" building.
Dwg. No. 4-3538

1951 Car Loading from C Block, Project CE-7-5-J.C. [4 drawings]:
1 & 2. Architectural Changes in Bldgs C-1 and C-2 for Car Loading. Dwg. Nos. 2-3214 and 2-3215.
3 Structural Changes in Bldgs C-1 and C-2 for Car Loading. Dwg. No. 2-3213.
4 Canopies for North Side of Bldgs C1 & C-2 for Car Loading. Dwg. No. 2-3216.

Daly, P., City Surveyor

1906 Sketch Showing Survey of Property situated in Jersey City for Colgate & Co. Dwg. No. 4-3353.

Hedden Iron Construction Company [Newark, NJ]

1910 [several unnumbered drawings of pipe stair railings, penthouse and skylight framing, and structural steel framing]

Bibliography

Colgate-Palmolive-Company

1986 Jersey City Plant/ECRA-II (Environmental Cleanup Responsibility Act) Site Evaluation Submission: Appendix B.

Associated Mutual Insurance Company

1922 Colgate & Co. (Soap and Toilet Supplies). Surveyed November 8, 1922.

Factory Mutual Engineering Association - Factory Mutual System.

1962-79 Colgate-Palmolive Company. "Jersey City Plant." Serial No. 70516-B, Index 29368.

Hopkins, C.M., & Co.

1908 Atlas of Hudson County, New Jersey, Vol. 1. Philadelphia.

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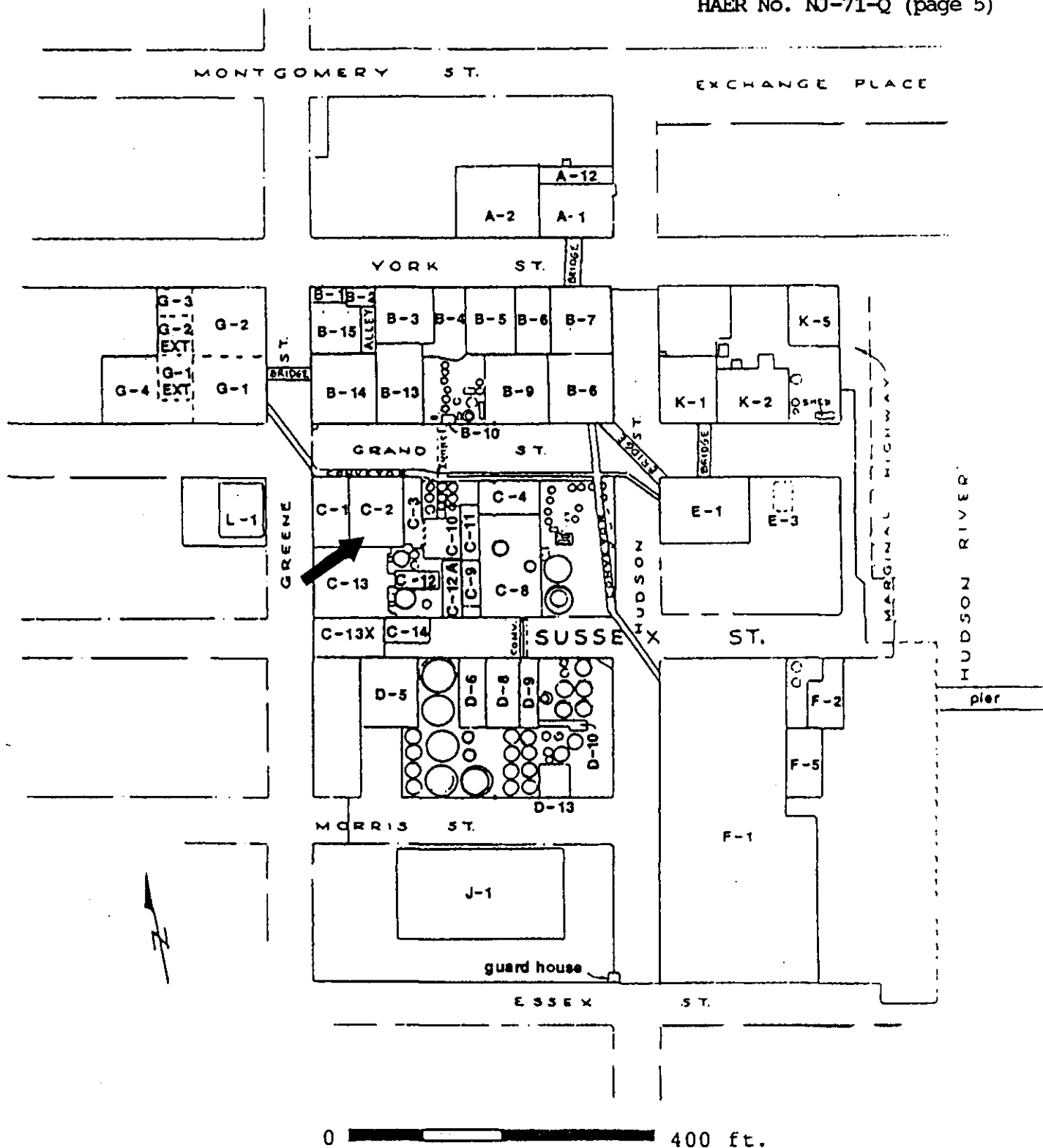


Figure 1. LOCATION OF C-2 AT COLGATE JERSEY CITY PLANT